

“I Have the Right to Know My Rights” Course: Curriculum and Learning Materials

Name of organisation:
Amnesty International - Moldova

“I HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW MY RIGHTS” OVERVIEW OF CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - MOLDOVA

On 6 December 2004 AI Moldova signed a Partnership Agreement with Ministry of Education of RM. This Agreement provided us with legal ground for cooperation with the Ministry and ensured sustainability of our activities regardless of staff changes in the Ministry. This Agreement could be a specific feature of our approach. A distinctive feature of our course is the process of its elaboration, which contains three phases.

In the first phase (during 2005-2006 school year) we selected the relevant themes and methodology for HRE in Moldova, through organizing 4 one-day seminars for 5 groups of 15 pupils from 5 schools in different regions of Moldova, 20 seminars in total. At these seminars were invited 5 teachers from other schools from that region.

These teachers had the mission to observe pupils during the seminar and note the reaction, the level of interest, level of involvement in activities, etc. During the seminar they had to fill in a questionnaire for each activity (session) within the seminar. Pupils also had to make a written evaluation of the seminar. All the evaluations were used to select the materials and methods, and to elaborate a draft HR course and teachers' guide.

In the second phase the draft HR course was piloted during the 2006-2007 school year by a group of 20 pilot teachers. Pilot teachers were selected from those who had been involved in seminars during the 1st year of the project. They were trained within a 5-day summer school and then piloted the course with pupils in grades 6-8 in their schools.

During the piloting pilot-teachers and their pupils completed evaluation forms after each lesson. Pilot teachers were asked to analyze and synthesize their pupils' evaluations and to then provide their own assessment of each lesson. Once a month pilot-teachers had an evaluation and consultation meeting with the authors of the materials. In these meetings, the teacher gave detailed feedback on the methods and thematic content of the draft manual, the time required to carry out the activities, challenges for carrying out the lesson, their proposals for improvements, and so on.

This piloting process led to the finalization of the Pupil Manual and Teacher's Guide. It was supplemented by a Human Rights resource Book for teachers, based on their requests for additional information on the concept of HR, evolution of HR, some of the relevant HR international treaties, information about some of distinct HR defenders, etc.

The third phase of the project, which is ongoing, involves the printing and distribution of these materials and teacher training. AI-Moldova is also lobbying the Ministry of Education to formally authorize the developed course as an optional/obligatory part of the school curriculum.